

Muddy Waters **Exhibit Credits**

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Muddy Waters



Godfather of the Blues

The Path of Modern Music Through the Muddy Waters

April 4, 1915 – McKinley Morganfield is born and raised in an area known as the Mississippi Delta. He is nicknamed Muddy by his grandmother because he liked to play in a nearby creek.

August 31, 1941 – Alan Lomax from the Library of Congress travels to Mississippi to make “blues music” recordings of Robert Johnson. Upon finding that Robert Johnson was deceased, Lomax meets and records Muddy Waters.

1943 – Muddy Waters travels north on the Mississippi River to Chicago to begin his career as a professional musician.



1945 – Muddy Waters “invents electricity” when he gets his first electric guitar and becomes the first musician to play the blues through an amplifier creating the blues-rock sound.

1948 – Muddy Waters records his first hit song “I Can’t Be Satisfied” for Chess Records.

Early 1950s – Muddy Waters records a string of hit songs including “Mannish Boy”, “Hoochie Coochie Man”, “I’m Ready” and “I Just Want To Make Love To You”.

1958 – Muddy Waters has a very successful tour in Europe, which earns him even greater fame in the United States.



1960s – A host of young musicians are influenced by Muddy Waters and American Blues Music. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Brian Jones, three young musicians from England, become infatuated with Muddy Waters and name their band The Rolling Stones after a Muddy Waters song. The Stones’ breakthrough single “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” is a thematic evolution of Muddy Waters’ first big hit “Can’t Be Satisfied”. The Stones’ “Satisfaction” is first recorded at Chess Records in Chicago.

1970s – A mature Muddy Waters stages a professional comeback winning several Grammy Awards, making award-winning records produced with rock star Johnny Winter, and touring with guitar legend Eric Clapton. Clapton and Waters become such good friends that Clapton stands up as best man at Muddy’s wedding in Westmont.

1980 – In its first year in existence, Muddy Waters is inducted into the Blues Music Hall of Fame.

April 30, 1983 – Muddy Waters passes away at his home in Westmont, Illinois, a place he called “God’s Country”.

1987 – In its first year in existence, Muddy Waters is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Present – The Rolling Stones, widely acclaimed as the best rock and roll band in the world, and Eric Clapton, widely acclaimed as the best rock and roll guitarist of all time, pass on the legacy of Muddy Waters as they influence scores of musicians and fans to this day!

